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SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - October 12, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussions of the constitution and the merits of voting 'yes' or 'no' were the major editorial themes of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on October 12, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

- [1A.](#) "Approving the Constitution Won't Solve Iraqi Crisis" (From Al-Watan, Saudi Newspaper, posted on Iraq 4 All News - <http://iraq4all.org/viewnews.php?id=10312>)

"Statements from senior White House officials over the last few days urge Iraqis to approve the constitution, considering it a guarantee for their democratic future. These statements are coordinated with warnings from Iraqi leaders that rejecting the constitution will lead to chaos and the destruction of Iraq's future. The U.S. and Iraqi statements serve a joint purpose: the U.S. is waiting for its opportunity to pull out from the Iraqi swamp, and it realizes this opportunity will not come until the Iraqi constitution is approved and Iraqi forces are prepared to take over security responsibility; the Iraqi side hopes that approving the draft will remove the threat of civil war...and division.

"But the question remains: If Iraqis were to fulfill the U.S. administration's desire and approve the draft constitution, would it be a sufficient step towards achieving political stability and security? The fact is that the current reality refutes this theory; a large section of Iraqis, which is Sunni, is dissatisfied with the constitution and has announced intentions to reject it, meaning that this constitution, if approved, will be limited because it will fail to represent the unity and national reconciliation that are desired.

"Approving the constitution is one of the steps required to resolve the complicated problems in Iraq. Approving the draft is not the magic wand that would solve everything. Iraq first needs a set of procedures to provide security, overcome the rift between opposing parties, achieve reconciliation, and combat unemployment. These steps are essential. An attempt to achieve peace by relying on the hope that the constitution will be approved is nothing more than a dream."

- [1B.](#) "Send a Blow to Terrorism and Its Supporters with a 'Yes' Vote" (Editorial by Widad Fakher - Watan 4 All - "Home 4 All" - <http://wattan4all.com/viewarticle.php?id=5777> &pg=articles)

"Terrorism, along with terrorists and those who support them in and outside of Iraq, will receive a strong blow next Saturday, October 15th, when we all vote 'yes' to the Federal Republic of Iraq. This vote will be an expression of faith in all the martyrs who were victimized by the party of fascists and murderers who arrived on the soil of Mesopotamia, and it will be a blow to those who fake their Islamic religion without reflecting on the justice and tolerance of true Islam.

"When Iraqis stand courageously at the ballot boxes, a smile will be drawn over the faces of the victims of Halabja, the southern marshes, and all other Iraqi patriots who fell under the injustice of a string of dictatorships starting on February 8, 1963.

"Those refusing to vote in favor of the constitution are still hoping to restore the centralized dictatorship that manipulates the political scene and deprives people of their right to decide their economic and political affairs. Next

Saturday will represent a new opening for a free and federal Iraq that refuses to entertain arbitrary and unjustified republican decrees or the behavior of some politicians. Only the new democratic Iraq will be present."

1C. "Voting for the Constitution Is a Means to Achieving Independence"

(Editorial by Mohammed Aissa - Al-Rafidayn -

http://www.alrafidayn.com/Story/News/N12_10_7.html)

"Sovereignty and independence for Iraq will not be achieved in the near future. In order to reach these goals we must pass several stages, including writing the fundamental law that will govern the country. This must be voted upon, and then elections must be held to establish a stable government that enjoys the authorities to do its duty and achieve sovereignty and independence.

"There is no doubt that the constitution the Iraqis wrote does not meet the aspirations of all spectrums of Iraqi people. But there also is no doubt that it is a thousand times better than the TAL, according to which the Iraqi state is run now. At least those who wrote the constitution are representatives of the Iraqi people, unlike [those who wrote] the TAL, which is still called 'Bremer Law.' Voting 'yes' means Iraq completes the Bremer phase-with all its disadvantages for Iraqis. It means entering a phase with a constitution written by Iraqi hands; parliamentarians will say what they want to the MNF, their presence, and the method of their deployment. But voting 'no' will bring us back to the Bremer phase and we might not get out of it. Things might get worse and Iraq could be turned into a long-term project that could last ten to twenty years or more. In that case, MNF will have complete power and those who cried for rejection will achieve the opposite of what they claim.

"These are not speculations; whoever wants to view the possibilities of rejection will see this result, which could be even worse, God forbid. Rejection means Iraq will enter unnecessary mazes, especially now that it is an open land for terrorist operations, which harm Iraqi people in general, and Shiites and Kurds in particular.

"Whoever says that federalism will divide Iraq will see that in reality, if the constitution is rejected, there will be an independent Kurdish state, Turkmen state, Christian state, Shiite state, Sunni state, etc. The points of disagreement were modified and what remains is not worth disagreeing upon.

"Next Saturday is the day when the people say either 'yes,' which is considered a step toward freedom and independence, or 'no,' which is a step backward. [With a 'no' vote] we would be much farther from our goal of achieving independence and freedom for our people, who suffer so much and whose wounds are still bleeding."

KHALILZAD